

THE BLUE SHEET

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUE

May 2006

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Disability
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2006 NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Are We There Yet?

The 2006 Legislative Session is winding down. By the end of May, the House and Senate will have finished hearing the slate of 2006 legislation.

Facing the Issues

This session brought many disability-related bills to the forefront. Topics ranged from Polling place accessibility to electronic ballot counting machines, Medicaid



reimbursement to penalties for Medicaid providers, and Reasonable Accommodations in the workplace.

During the 2006 Session, Commission Members and staff researched, attended and testified at various legislative hearings, including Bills which addressed rural transportation, stem cell research, TANF Reauthorization and Emergency plans for service animals to name a few.

NH STATE LEGISLATION ON DISABILITY
2006 Legislative Update

Below you will find a summary of the bills pertaining to disability that were followed by the Commission during the current session of the NH State Legislature. For more information on any of these bills, including bill and amendment text, you can access the NH Legislature website at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/, click on "Quick Search" and enter the bill number or title. You can also call the Commission at 1-800-852-3405.

ACTIVE BILLS: The following bills have passed in the House and/or Senate, or have been signed by the Governor.

| Bill # | Title | Status |
|--------|---|-------------------------------|
| HB1118 | Requiring paper ballots at all elections | Chapter 23 |
| HB1185 | Relative to Volunteer NH | Chapter 55 |
| HB1201 | Relative to child passenger restraints | Enrolled |
| HB1214 | Establishing a task force to identify and assess community-based, educational and social/human services programs that serve families with children 8 years of age and younger | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1231 | Relative to the penalty for assaulting a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or law enforcement officer | Enrolled |
| HB1241 | (New Title) extending the kindergarten construction aid program. | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1265 | Establishing a council on the relationship between public health and the environment | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1331 | Establishing a committee to study the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization | Committee of Conference |
| HB1332 | Establishing a commission to study health care in New Hampshire prisons | Committee of Conference |
| HB1346 | Requiring certain persons to keep the contents of prescriptions confidential | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1427 | Relative to the principles for developmentally disabled services | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1435 | (2nd New Title) Relative to the emergency plan for service animals and establishing a commission to study the evacuation and housing of animals during an emergency. | Enrolled |
| HB1452 | Requiring insurance to cover the cost of testing for bone marrow donation | Enrolled |
| HB1461 | (New Title) AN ACT establishing a task force to study Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1465 | Relative to food stamp overpayment | Chapter 85 |
| HB1512 | (New Title) Establishing a committee to study volunteer activity related to transportation | Non concurred |
| HB1546 | (New Title) Relative to patient information | Passed/Adopted |
| HB1611 | Relative to reimbursement for personal care services | Enrolled |

| Bill # | Title | Status |
|--------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | |
| HB1613 | Relative to polling place arrangement and accessibility | Committee of Conference |
| HB1626 | (New Title) Relative to appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state. | Committee of Conference |
| HB1662 | Establishing the crime of peonage | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| HB1673 | Relative to the reduction of mercury emissions | Chapter 105 |
| HB1709 | Establishing an autism registry in the department of HHS | Chapter 106 |
| HB1722 | Relative to the New Hampshire council on developmental disabilities | Enrolled |
| HB1741 | Relative to reporting requirements concerning infections in hospitals | Passed/Adopted w Amendment |
| HB1744 | Authorizing the pari-mutual commission to regulate games of chance conducted by charitable organizations and relative to tournaments conducted by charitable organizations where chips have no monetary face value | Committee of Conference |
| HB1745 | Relative to methamphetamine-related crimes involving children and incapacitated adults | Enrolled |
| SB231 | Relative to residency requirements to qualify for the elderly property tax exemption | Passed/Adopted w Amendment |
| SB233 | Relative to motorcycle rider education | Enrolled |
| SB234 | Including the International Residential Code in the definition of the state building code | Chapter 112 |
| SB250 | Relative to lead paint poisoning prevention | Committee of Conference |
| SB252 | (New Title) Relative to certification of speech-language assistants for purposes of speech language pathology practice. | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| SB273 | Relative to reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities | Enrolled |
| SB281 | Establishing an organ and tissue donor registry | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| SB289 | Relative to the brain and spinal cord advisory council | Enrolled |
| SB296 | Relative to recovery of public assistance | Chapter 45 |
| SB300 | Exempting certain transfers of real estate between charitable organizations from the real estate transfer tax | Passed/Adopted with Amendment |
| SB306 | Establishing a quality early learning opportunity initiative and making an appropriation therefore | Non concurred |
| SB318 | Relative to the use of deadly force to protect oneself | Vetoed by Governor |
| SB358 | Relative to an advanced registered nurse practitioners duty to warn of violent acts of patients | Committee of Conference |
| SB369 | Relative to the portability, availability, and renew ability of health coverage | Chapter 125 |
| SB370 | Relative to multidisciplinary child protection teams | Chapter 118 |
| SB374 | Relative to the Healthy Kids corporation | Committee of Conference |
| SB403 | Relative to verification of identity when a person registers or attempts to vote | Committee of Conference |

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE (ITL): The following Bills have been found ITL in either the House or Senate.

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|--------|---|
| HB1123 | Requiring equestrian helmets for first time riders |
| HB1136 | Establishing a commission to study the care needs of medically fragile students in the school system |
| HB1145 | Permitting vehicles to proceed straight through an intersection after stopping for a red light |
| HB1158 | Relative to eligibility for the property tax exemption for the disabled |
| HB1160 | Establishing a committee to study the effects of willful, habitual misconduct by individuals on their subsequent well-being which may impose a burden on public funds |
| HB1354 | Relative to physical force in defense of a person |
| HB1366 | Relative to a planning board's authority to require public access to open space as a condition of subdivision approval |
| HB1489 | Relative to school emergency response plans |
| HB1563 | (New Title) Establishing a committee to study immigration. |
| SB241 | Allowing municipalities to exclude certain retirement assets from consideration in qualifying for the elderly property tax exemption |
| SB242 | Prohibiting a person charged with unlawfully killing a decedent from taking a decedent's estate |
| SB361 | (New Title) Relative to school district contingency funds. |
| SCR6 | (New Title) Urging Congress to support stem cell research. |

LAID ON TABLE (LOT): The following Bills have been LOT in either the House or Senate.

| | |
|--------|--|
| HB1166 | Relative to electronic ballot counting machines |
| HB1198 | Establishing a committee to study highway rest areas |
| HB1209 | Relative to notification requirements for criminal offenders |
| HB1220 | Establishing a committee to study a statewide review of all unanticipated fatalities and serious injury involving incapacitated adults and individuals 60 or older |
| HB1221 | (New Title) Relative to recovery of medical assistance. |
| HB1409 | Relative to organ and tissue donation |
| HB1506 | Requiring children 12 and under to wear personal floatation devices |
| HB1539 | Establishing a committee to study the shortage in speech and language services and the criteria for certification as a speech language specialist |
| HB1555 | Establishing a commission to investigate cost drivers in providing health care. |
| HB1570 | Relative to health insurance coverage for part-time college students |
| HB1578 | To provide enhanced awareness of and education on methamphetamine to the citizens of New Hampshire |
| HB1597 | Relative to municipal obligations for indigent medical expenses |
| HJR20 | Supporting stem cell research |
| HJR24 | Supporting efforts for commuter rail in New Hampshire |

| | |
|-------|--|
| SB243 | Establishing a commission to study rural transit in NH |
| SB316 | Requiring interpretation services upon request for persons receiving medical treatment |
| SB338 | Relative to insurance coverage for children's early intervention therapy services |
| SB360 | Establishing a surcharge on real estate transfers for deposit in the family stability fund and renaming the homeless prevention program the family stability program |
| SB401 | Relative to the Hanover-Lebanon District Court |

INTERIM STUDY: The following Bills have been placed in Interim Study Committees.

| | |
|--------|---|
| HB1186 | Relative to the location of the Cheshire County Superior Court |
| HB1384 | Relative to standardizing the format for special education budgets |
| HB1415 | Establishing the office of corrections ombudsman |
| HB1476 | Relative to electronic tracking and monitoring of sexual offenders. |
| HB1511 | Relative to business replacement costs resulting from government program displacement |
| HB1532 | Revising the special education statutes |
| HB1549 | Excluding certain acts based on bona fide economic and public safety considerations from the prohibition against age discrimination in public accommodations |
| HB1601 | (New Title) Relative to the funding of catastrophic special education aid and making an appropriation to the department of education to support the Laurent Clerc Academy |
| HB1621 | (New Title) Prohibiting the overpricing of commodities during a declared state of emergency or a market emergency. |
| HB1680 | Requiring law enforcement and corrections officers to complete training in appropriate techniques for dealing with persons with mental health conditions |
| SB268 | (New Title) Raising the age of required attendance of children in school and establishing a 2-year pilot program for increasing vocational education opportunities in the Manchester and Nashua school districts and making an appropriation therefore. |

Summer Fun

Accessible Outings in New Hampshire

From fishing to camping, reading to riding, swimming, gardening, or just sitting and enjoying the smells of summer, New Hampshire has so much to offer its residents and guests. This edition of The Blue Sheet will hopefully tempt you out and about to events, happenings, and attractions within the state.

Archery:

Bear Brook State Park: Allenstown, 485-3782. Bear Brook offers two archery ranges. One 15-target range is maintained by the N.H. Fish and Game Department, plus an additional 4-target practice range that is universally accessible. (Bring your own archery equipment.)

Camping:

White Mountain National Forest: Located in Northern New Hampshire and Southwestern Maine, the National Forest strives to make its facilities accessible to all. You can find more information on accessible day-use/overnight facilities, trails, and bodies of water by calling the Forest Service Office at 603-528-8721; TTY 603-528-8722, or by visiting their web site at

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain/recreation/accessible_recreation/.

New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation State Parks:

The State offers many opportunities for camping at State Park Facilities. The following are a few accessible camp sites. These and more can be found by calling 603-271-3556, or by logging on to the State's web page at

<http://www.nhstateparks.org/ParksPages/AccessGIncHM.html>,

- Bear Brook State Park:
Allenstown, NH 03275
Day-Use: 603-485-9874
Campground: 603-485-9869
- Coleman State Park:
Little Diamond Pond Road
Stewartstown, NH 03597
Phone: 603-237-5382
- Ellacoya State Park:
Scenic Drive
Gilford, NH 03246
Phone: 603-293-7821
- Hampton Beach State Park:
Hampton, NH 03842
Hampton Beach: 603-926-3784
- Lake Francis State Park
Pittsburg, NH 03592
Phone: 603-538-6965
- Mollidgewock State Park
Errol, NH 03579
Phone: 603-482-3373

Fishing: New Hampshire has many "fishing holes", big and small, fresh and salt water, for both anglers and fly-fishers. The following is a brief list of accessible spots.

Archery Pond: Offered at Bear Brook State Park, Archery Pond is perfect for Fly-fishing and is universally accessible.

Hot Hole Pond: A local favorite with an accessible fishing pier located on Hot Hole Pond Road in Concord.

Merrimack River: This River offers three universally designed fishing piers, two of which are suitable for fly-fishing.

White Mountain National Forest: The White Mountain National Forest offers many accessible spots including Albany Covered Bridge on the Kancamagus Highway and the Russell Pond Fishing Pier and Boat Launch in Campton.

State Parks: The New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation has a list of fully accessible State Parks on their web site <http://www.nhstateparks.org/ParksPages/AccessGIncHM.html>.

Out and About: New Hampshire has many attractions statewide to fit the needs of the "tourist" in all of us.

- **Conway Scenic Railroad:** Whether you choose one of the Valley routes to Conway or Bartlett, or the legendary Crawford Notch excursion, you'll experience the excitement of rail travel in the comfort of open or enclosed restored passenger cars which can accommodate wheelchairs up to 24" wide. For more information on trip schedules, and events (Including a visit by Thomas the Train!) you can call 603-356-5251 or use the link provided above to navigate to their web site.
- **Tarbin Gardens:** Located in Franklin, Tarbin Gardens is the fully accessible must-visit for nature lovers, bird and butterfly watchers, photographers and artists, and, of course, for garden enthusiasts. For more information call 603-934-3518.
- **Canterbury Shaker Village:** A non-profit educational institution and National Historic Landmark museum consisting of 25 original Shaker buildings, three reconstructed Shaker buildings set on 694 acres of gardens, natural trails, woods, ponds and meadows. What the brochure doesn't say is that there is always something happening at the Village. Craftsmen

are working on their wares, repairing buildings, building furniture, the kitchen is open and preparing wonderfully delicious meals and snacks, and everyone there is ready to make your visit educational and enjoyable. This is one of my personal favorite summer spots. I enjoy lunch sitting on a blanket by the pond at least a handful of times each year. Shaker Village offers a wide variety of workshops and events that can be found on their web site. More information can be found by clicking on the link provided above, or by calling (603) 783-9511.

- **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center:** A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Squam Lake Natural Science Center's mission is "to advance understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire's natural world." Filled with wonderful trails and gardens surrounding Squam Lake – the site of the film "On Golden Pond", Squam is a relaxing day just waiting for you. The majority of trails are accessible, and electronic carts are available on a first-come basis. For more information, you can call 603-968-7194 or click on the link above.
- **Strawbery Banke Museum:** Strawberry Banke provides the opportunity to see how people lived for four centuries of American history, through restored furnished houses, historic gardens, and objects of everyday life. Although the grounds are not paved to preserve historical integrity, they are packed gravel and at a recreational grade for accessibility. For more information, you can call 603-433-1100, or use the link provided above.

Dear Reader;

As always, I have enjoyed researching this edition of The Blue Sheet, and look forward to the few warm weeks New Hampshire affords us during the summer. I will hopefully see many of you out and about enjoying the tourism that New Hampshire has to offer. Watch for the Special Legislative Wrap-Up Issue which will “hit stands” the week following the close of the 2006 Legislative Session. In that issue you will find the outcomes of all of the bills the Commission has been tracking, along with what to watch for in the upcoming session with tabled 2006 Bills.

Happy Reading!

Marcy E. Hoik

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